

Scholastic Visions

The Newsletter of the Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Association

Vol. 6 No. 2 Editor: Rob Grierson, 235 Custer Av #3S, Evanston IL 60202 <grierson@mcs.net>

November 2000

Message From The Editor

This newsletter has been mailed to 226 IHSSBCA members; 25 vendors; and 69 coaches and tournament directors from 48 states and 4 U.S. territories.

Another 26 IHSSBCA members will be printing their own copy of the newsletter after downloading it from our Web site.

Starting in September 2000, *Scholastic Visions* is being mailed "Presorted Standard" from the Skokie post office. We save money by not mailing first class; the down side is that delivery can take up to two weeks.

If you receive this issue by mail, but would prefer to print your own copy off the Web site, e-mail the Editor. We hope to offer a lower membership fee next year for those who download and print their own newsletters.

If you did not receive the September issue, or if you did not receive a complete 16-page newsletter, contact the Editor at the above address and we will mail you a replacement, first class.

All-State and Team Illinois Nominations Due January 10th

Nominate your star player for All-State or Team Illinois! You can download a nomination form from our Web site.

Forms must be postmarked by January 1st and received by January 10th in order to be considered. Do it today!

Masonic Tournament Update

Due to a conflict with a previously scheduled reception for all Officers of Masonry, the Masonic State Tournament has been moved from Saturday, March 3 to Friday, March 2, starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served. Teams that would have stayed the night before can plan to stay the night after instead.

Kickoff Tournament Winners

Photographs on Page 3 ... Results on Page 6

IHSA Sectional Assignments

To find out which Sectional your school is assigned to, visit <<http://www.ihsa.org/activity/scb/index.htm>> and click on the link for either AA or A Sectional Assignments.

The AA Hosts are Aurora East, Centralia, Glenbard West, Lake Forest HS, Lincoln-Way, Quincy Senior, Sterling HS, and Wheaton North. The A Hosts are Biggsville Union, Byron, The Latin School of Chicago, Decatur St. Teresa, Dupo, Effingham St. Anthony, Fithian Oakwood, and Macomb.

Tournabout/Beta Update

Tournabouts: Richmond-Burton has 10 schools entered, needs 6 more; Effingham has 7, needs 1 more; Springfield Southeast has 15; Moline has 3, needs 3 more; Evergreen Park has 9, needs 7 more.

Betas: Porta has 17 schools entered; Flora has 4, needs 4 more; no information for Lincoln-Way.

Above information is as of November 22nd. Call the host ASAP to enter; deadline is December 1st (or soon after).

Call For Bloopers!

Bruce Fitzgerald, coach at Stevenson HS, is collecting funny stories of moderator errors or wrong answers for a future newsletter article. e-mail <bfitzger@district125.k12.il.us>.

New Mentor Program

If you are a first-year coach wanting support or advice, or if you are a veteran coach willing to offer same, contact John Rathbun at <genrebun@aol.com> or 309-745-8375.

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The Most Important Competitive Talent is Seen by a Relative Few

by Henry Bangser, Superintendent
New Trier Twp High School District 203, Winnetka

The setting is a high school interscholastic competitive arena. Five exceptionally talented players from each team eye each other across the floor, knowing that years of training support their ability to respond with cat-like reflexes as the challenges of the game unfold. The referee is poised for the opening toss and the contestants wait with great anticipation. The ensuing game will be divided into halves. The importance of teamwork is obvious. Fine coaches have prepared the contestants. "High fives" abound when one player converts an exceptionally difficult "long shot."

In my 30 years as a teacher, counselor, coach, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent, I have attended hundreds of interscholastic athletic events, many of which brought five boys or five girls from our high school together on a basketball court against players from another school. However, it was only four years ago that I watched my first Scholastic Bowl competition. Since then, I have enjoyed at least one match each year. I now realize that one environment, typically played in front of hundreds of fans, is a perfect complement for the other. While the crowd in attendance at Scholastic Bowl events is quite sparse compared with basketball games, the pure joy of competition I have witnessed is every bit as genuine and contagious.

Certainly, one cannot argue with the undeniable truth that high schools are, first and foremost, places where students come to learn. Therefore, the venues in which our Scholastic Bowl teams compete showcase our students' most important competitive talent. New Trier students have been fortunate to be successful on the athletic fields and courts, performing arts stages, and in their commitment to our communities through social service projects. However, I can think of no greater evidence of our school's priorities than the performance of our Scholastic Bowl participants and their colleague competitors from other schools. On behalf of all of your schools' principals and superintendents, congratulations and thanks for the extraordinary intellect you portray and the genuine sense of humor and sportsmanship you evidence in your matches.

Hank Bangser was a history teacher, adviser, assistant varsity football coach, and assistant principal at New Trier East in the 1970s. During the 1980s he served as the principal at Lake Forest East and as superintendent in suburban New York and St. Charles, Illinois. He returned to New Trier as Superintendent in 1990.

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FAQ for 2001 IHSA Questions

One of the major changes facing coaches and players this year will be the questions used in the upcoming 2000-2001 IHSA state series tournament. Many of the tenets that were incorporated into writing the questions were based on suggestions gathered by the IHSA over the years from coaches. There will be some changes from previous years that coaches should be aware of. Here are some of the Frequently Asked Questions, with answers.

Q The IHSA Terms and Conditions state that handouts can be used. Will handouts be used in the state series this year?

A Yes! However, for logistical reasons, there will be no handouts at the Regionals and Sectionals. For the 16 teams appearing at the State Finals, there will be some questions that use handouts.

Q In past years, "Current Events" could mean anything from events in the "most recent century" to events in the "most recent two years". How will those questions be written this year?

A For the Regional and Sectional matches, "Current Events" will be defined as events taking place between "January 1, 2000 and November 15, 2000." The Current Events questions used at the State Finals in Peoria will be written the week of the tournament, and can cover events starting January 1, 2000 up to the Sunday before the IHSA State Finals.

Q What is being done about the difficulty level of the questions?

A The "easier questions" are being slotted into the Regional rounds, the "harder questions" into the Sectional rounds, and the "hardest questions" into the State Finals.

Q Are there any significant changes in the style of questions?

A Many more toss-up questions will be "pyramid" format, starting with more obscure clues and moving toward easier clues.

Q Are there any significant changes in the science questions?

A There will be more questions involving calculation in the areas of physics and chemistry, which reflects what students actually learn in those classes.

Q Are there any significant changes in the math questions?

A Math bonus questions are being written so that the hardest part of the bonus is given first. It will be much more difficult for one team member to answer all bonus parts by working alone.

Q Can "sample questions" be purchased for practice?

A Each team will receive a sample set of questions with the Terms and Conditions. Those are the only sample questions available at this time.

Q Can the IHSA State Series questions be purchased?

A After the State Series, the questions will be available for purchase for a reasonable price from the IHSA. Details to follow.

Puzzle Corner

Find all words contained in the word "therein," using consecutive letters and no rearrangements of letters.

the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein

How many ways are there to change a dollar bill into coin(s)?

96 Teams Attend Kickoff Tournaments Across The State

@ Sterling



Blue Division Champions – Rockford Auburn

Left to right: David Ng, Sam Castree III, Captain Nabeel Ahmed, Nick Mann, Jack O'Brien



Gold Division Champions – LaSalle Peru

Back: Captain Bob Tieman, Chris Banich, Chris Scales, Dan Hammerich, Nathan Wlodarchak Front: Greg Veselsky, Steve Schweickert, Amy Sipovic, Kelly Bryan, Coach Dan Mercer

@ Loyola, Wilmette



Academic Division Champions – Wheaton North

Back: Rob Brackett, Matt Kane, Marc Gauthier, Matt Kaschalk, Matt Peszek, Eric Noeske Front: Dave Vock, Eric Livergood, Seth Casae, Will Rosecrans, Lori Sommars, Carole Montague



Scholastic Division Champions – Downers Grove North

Left to right: Adam Roder, Coach Jane Rice, Mariusz Galczynski, Chintan Desai, Drew Durepos, Eric Hunnicutt

@ Petersburg, PORTA



Large School Champions – Springfield Southeast

Back: Alex Leach, Mike Lommler, Brian Draper, Gary Sharpe Front: Coach Cathy Groesch, Brendan Hughes



Small School Champions – Warrensburg-Latham

Left to right: Ryan McAdam, Andy Heidel, Michael Feltes, Captain Brent Stanley, Andrew Pope, Nate John, Coach John Burke

@ Fairfield



Champions – Salem Community



Runners-Up – Robinson

Scholastic Bowl Stipends Vary Widely Around The State

by David Reinstein, New Trier HS, Winnetka

On this year's IHSSBCA membership form, there were survey questions asking coaches how much their Scholastic Bowl stipend is. The surveys were removed from the membership forms and sent to me for tabulation; thus, there were no names attached.

Out of 203 coaches who returned membership forms, 109, or 54%, gave dollar amounts. Another 17 coaches, or 8%, gave a percent of base salary but not a dollar amount. While it would be ideal to compile statistics based on everybody's stipend, this is by far the best data ever collected on Scholastic Bowl stipends.

The stipends range from a low of zero (four coaches) to a high of \$8,803, with a mean of \$1,788 and a median of \$1,500. One-fourth of coaches earn less than \$840, while one-fourth earn more than \$2,550. Of the coaches who only gave a percent of base salary, the numbers ranged from a low of 3% to a high of 10%, with a median of 5%.

We also asked coaches what their team budget was. Thirty coaches gave a budget amount that was not supplemented with fundraisers. Many coaches stated that they were given money based on individual requests, and a small number of coaches gave fundraising amounts. The budget amounts without supplements ranged from \$100 to \$8,000, with a mean of \$1,260 and a median of \$650. The amounts varied greatly due to whether or not transportation costs were included, and whether or not the school paid for any overnight trips.

It would be wonderful if academic coaches were given as much support as athletic coaches. The data suggest that this is happening at some Illinois schools but not at others. We hope that more and more schools will see the importance of building a strong team, rewarding their coaches, and expanding their program.

Thank you to everybody who shared their information with us. We hope that each of you receives the support you deserve.

David is in his 7th year of teaching math and coaching Scholastic Bowl at New Trier. His team finished third in Masonic Bowl last year and second the year before that. The Trevians beat Loyola at this year's Von Steuben Frosh/Soph Invitational.

Handbook Roster Changes

Please make the following corrections and/or changes to the Roster in your IHSSBCA Coach's Handbook. If you don't want to make all the changes, at least look through and make the changes for the coaches in your area or league.

.....

Aledo, Aledo HS: Add e-mail for Nancy Watkins <nwatkins@mccl.net>.

Ashland, A-C Central: Add fax 217-476-3730 and home number 217-476-8170 for Jeff Pfaffe.

Aurora, IMSA: Julia Darnton replaces Tim Johanns as coach. Her work phone is 630-907-5601; her home phone is 630-907-5615; her e-mail is <jdarnton@imsa.edu>.

Avon, Avon HS: Lisa Pumfrey replaces Rachel Kerr; her fax number is 309-465-9030, her home phone is 309-486-3351, and her e-mail is <lpumfrey@roe22.k12.il.us>.

Chicago, Mt. Carmel: Scratch incorrect e-mail for D Rodde.

Crystal Lake, Prairie Ridge: Kelly Orsi replaces Karissa Brooks as assistant coach; her e-mail is <korsi@d155.org>.

DePue, DePue HS: Add home phone 815-875-3531 and e-mail <sgarvin@bhsroe.k12.il.us> for Sue Garvin.

Girard, Girard HS: Lauren Baker replaces Althea Brummett. Change the home phone to 217-942-5337, and add her e-mail <ll_baker@hotmail.com>.

McHenry, McHenry HS: Change Debbie Bradley's fax number to 815-363-8651.

Mt. Zion, Mt. Zion HS: Scratch incorrect e-mail for C Allen.

Newark, Newark HS: Scratch incorrect e-mail for M Gifford.

Ottawa, Marquette: Shawn Trotter's fax number is 815-433-2632, and his home phone is 815-872-3072.

Port Byron, Riverdale HS: Change e-mail for Rita Luebbers to <rluebbers@riverdale.rockis.k12.il.us>.

Raymond, Lincolnwood JHS/SHS: Add e-mail for Jennifer Henderson <rwe@lcls.org>.

Scales Mound, Scales Mound HS: Tim Drey replaces Ruth Foley as coach; his e-mail is <tad@scalesmound.net>.

Warrensburg, Warrensburg-Latham: Change e-mail for John Burke to <cbvette76@home.com>.

Washington, Washington Community HS: scratch incorrect e-mail for Steve Doty.

Zion, Zion-Benton: Change e-mail for Jennifer Hoy to <jenjus@ameritech.net>.

Statement of Income and Expenses July 1, 2000 through November 25, 2000

Submitted by Rob Grierson, IHSSBCA Treasurer

Income	
Membership Dues	\$6,225.00
Advertising	1,350.00
Handbooks & Updates	<u>860.00</u>
Total Income	\$8,435.00
Expenses	
PAC Team IL, 2000	\$661.50
Newsletter	785.83
Tournaments	254.88
Handbooks & Updates	859.78
Membership	536.45
Web Site	116.15
Scholastic Bowl Week	<u>176.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$3,391.09
Net Income	<u>\$5,043.91</u>

From Last Year (99-00) \$ 294.14

Bank Balance 11/25/00 \$5,338.05

The Season Limitation Rules: Point/Counterpoint

by Sister John Baricevic, SSND, Belleville

The conversation below was overheard in the gathering area at Washington University, in St. Louis, just prior to the third presidential debate ...

.....

Hi, Terry, how are you? I missed you at the IHSSBCA district meeting last week.

Good to see you, Chris. I had a conflict the night of our district meeting, so I dutifully drove three hours to attend the one in Springfield.

Such dedication! I hope the Springfield district meeting was as good as ours was.

It was good, but I'm sorry I missed the local one. I always enjoy spending time with people who consider IHSA Scholastic Bowl important. Listen, Chris, I've been trying to reach you at school, but you know how phone tag is with Scholastic Bowl coaches. I'm afraid we won't be able to schedule a scholastic match with your school this year. The eighteen-date rule the IHSA insists on has really cut into our season! By the time I set conference dates, reserve two dates for the Masonic Tournament, and one for the local college invitational, I have room for only a few more.

I know what you mean about the tight scheduling. But my players like the eighteen-date limit. They feel they need the time for their other activities and for their studies. I'm proud of them for putting a priority on their schoolwork, and I'm rather glad they participate in a wide variety of activities. It broadens their horizons and opens them to many more life experiences.

True, but we have more than forty kids who want to participate! How do we cut bright kids who aren't ashamed of being bright, and who think scholastic competitions are just as important as athletic events? Even if we use six players each date, we're only able to guarantee each player three or four dates per season! That really doesn't help us build any depth on the team.

How in the world do you manage forty kids? I don't have an assistant coach, and handling the fifteen total kids on my varsity, JV, and freshman teams is almost too much as it is! The eighteen-date limit lets me cut players without any kind of guilt trip. And I find that playing the same kids regularly helps to build their confidence, and to develop teamwork skills as well as team depth.

You still haven't talked your principal into getting you an assistant!? That's too bad. I don't know how we'd manage without two coaches. Tournaments seem to be the only way to get in a lot of matches under the eighteen-date rule, and we just couldn't do it with only one coach. We sometimes have two teams playing in two different places on a Saturday! Of course the extra expenses related to so many tournaments sure put a drain on my budget! We've had to resort to a special fundraiser, and even some blatant begging just to cover costs this year. If we could play more dual and triangular matches, we could save a lot of money on questions, fees, and travel.

It's a shame that most of the scholastic programs in the state are under-funded. Our school board even uses the eighteen-date limit to justify not hiring a second coach. They feel that the shorter season means there is less coaching to do, so two coaching salaries just don't seem justified. If they only knew what goes into running a program!

Speaking of shorter seasons – what do you think about the season limitation rule? That was a hot topic at our district meeting.

It was at our meeting too. A lot of coaches believe it will balance the playing field for the smaller schools by preventing the bigger schools from becoming powers because they play year round. I don't think it's a big school vs. small school issue at all, but I do feel it will keep some coaches and schools from going overboard. The IHSA limits seasons and coaching contact for other activities, so why not Scholastic Bowl?

Maybe, but you know as well as I do that there are ways around those limitations. Besides, why should summer scholastic activities be considered going overboard? We **are** schools, and academic growth **is** why we exist.

You know I can't argue that point, but I just don't want to be forced to spend my summer coaching just so we can field a competitive team in the fall, much less a winning team.

There's more to this than just taking time to prepare for the season. I have five super sophomores this year, and I was really looking forward to having a team that might participate in a national tournament in a year or two. But I guess that is out of the question now. You don't happen to know of any national tournaments that run during the school year, do you?

No, I'm afraid not. But think about it, Terry, how many schools seriously have a chance to field a team in a national tournament? I can't see that the shortened season is really an issue.

Good point, but I believe it **is** an issue. Haven't you daydreamed about that one magical season or one special player that would give your team the chance to take its game to the next level?

"Dream" is the right word for it.

Seriously, Chris, think about what it would you do for your kids, for the school, maybe even for your town. I know the community would never get as excited about a national level academic team as they would about a championship basketball or baseball or soccer team. But for the kids involved, it would be a special memory.

Maybe you have a point. There are a number of summer programs for the athletes, and many of them culminate with national tournaments. Do you think the AAU would ever consider sponsoring academic competitions?

Now who's dreaming!

Say, we'd better go. The debate is about to start.

.....

Sister John is the former Scholastic Bowl coach at Breese Mater Dei, and is now the Technology Coordinator at Cathedral Grade School in Belleville. She continues to devote a great deal of time to Scholastic Bowl by writing questions and moderating.

2000-01 Tournament Results

10/14 Loyola Ultima (9 teams)

1. Loyola; 2. New Trier; 3. St. Ignatius, Stevenson (tie)

10/14 Orion Varsity Tournament (20 teams)

1. Moline; 2. Peru St. Bede; 3. Macomb; 4. Galva

10/21 Von Steuben Frosh/Soph (25 teams)

1. St. Ignatius; 2. Stevenson; 3. New Trier; 4. Loyola A

10/28 NU Wildcat Invitational NAQT (39 teams)

By Points Scored: 1. Eisenhower (Shelby Twp, MI);
2. Chicago Marist; 3. Stevenson; 4. Downers Grove North;
5. Roselle Lake Park

Semifinal Match: Eisenhower over Niles West

Semifinal Match: Lincoln-Way over Detroit Central Catholic

Final Match: Eisenhower over Lincoln-Way

10/28 Ottawa Marquette

No Results Reported

10/28 Central Illinois Scholastic League JV (9 teams)

Tournament Results: 1. Mt. Zion (7-1);
2. Decatur St. Teresa (6-2); 3. Springfield Southeast (6-2)

Regular League Results: 1. Springfield Southeast (7-1);
2. Mt. Zion (6-2); 3. Decatur St. Teresa (6-2)

11/4 Central Illinois Scholastic League Varsity (9 teams)

Tournament Results: 1. Decatur MacArthur (8-0);
2. Springfield Southeast (7-1); 3. Mt. Zion (6-2)

Regular League Results: 1. Decatur MacArthur (8-0);
2. Springfield Southeast (7-1); 3. Mt. Zion (6-2)

11/4 NIU Huskie Invitational DeKalb (20 teams)

1. Streator; 2. Rockford Boylan; 3. Sterling; 4. Quincy Senior

11/4 Peru St. Bede Tournament (28 teams)

1. U High Normal; 2. Peru St. Bede; 3. Varna Midland; 4. Orion

11/11 Moline Frosh/Soph Tournament (32 teams)

1. Washington A; 2. Loyola B; 3. Lake Zurich;
4. Rockridge Taylor Ridge A; Consolation: Loyola A

11/11 U of I Phi Scholars Champaign (24 teams)

No Results Reported

11/12 UIContest (18 student/parent teams)

1. Stevenson I; 2. St. Ignatius II;
Semifinalists: Durand, Lake Zurich; Consolation: St. Ignatius I

11/18 IHSSBCA Kickoff North/Loyola (16 & 16 teams)

Academic Division:

1. Wheaton North; 2. Stevenson; 3. Loyola A; 4. Chicago Marist

Scholastic Division:

1. Downers Grove North; 2. Roselle Lake Park;
3. Cary-Grove; 4. Niles Notre Dame

11/18 IHSSBCA Kickoff West/Sterling (12 & 12 teams)

Blue Division:

1. Rockford Auburn; 2. Streator; 3. Sterling; 4. Rockford Boylan

Gold Division:

1. LaSalle Peru; 2. Moline; 3. Winnebago; 4. Stillman Valley

11/18 IHSSBCA Kickoff Central/PORTA (18 & 12 teams)

Large School Division:

1. Springfield Southeast; 2. Decatur MacArthur;
3. Quincy A; 4. Normal Community

Small School Division:

1. Warrensburg-Latham; 2. Dunlap;
3. Athens; 4. Bloomington Central Catholic

11/18 IHSSBCA Kickoff South/Fairfield (10 teams)

1. Salem Community; 2. Robinson; 3. Fairfield; 4. Breese Central

11/18 Carlinville Frosh/Soph Tournament (12 teams)

1. Sullivan; 2. Springfield Southeast; 3. Quincy; 4. Staunton

Tournament hosts, please report your results! Leave a voice mail at 847-864-3165 or e-mail <grierson@mcs.net>. We will also publish the results of Conference Tournaments.

2000-01 Tournament Schedule

Bold indicates a change from the September listing.

IHSA WEEK NUMBERS ARE GIVEN IN PARENTHESES

(22) Dec 2 SAT Date

(22) Dec 2 11th Annual HL Richards Invitational (full)

(22) Dec 2 U High Normal Frosh/Soph Pioneer Classic
Tom Holbrook (309-438-8106)
<twholbro@ilstu.edu>
Campus Box 7100, Normal IL 61790

(22) Dec 2 Charleston Holiday Tournament
Anne Kidwell (217-345-2196)
<amsk@charleston.k12.il.us>
1603 Lincoln Ave, Charleston IL 61920

(23) Dec 9 ACT Date

(23) Dec 9 8th Annual Fremd Frosh/Soph Tournament (full)

(23) Dec 9 River City Scholastic VJV Classic
Jack Roseman (309-672-6630) <jkrbuddy@aol.com>
Peoria HS, 1615 N North St, Peoria IL 61604

(23) Dec 9 Rockford Boylan Frosh/Soph Tournament (full)

(24) Dec 16 Von Steuben Varsity Tournament
Bob Schrempf (773-534-5100)
<rschrempf@enc.k12.il.us>
5039 N Kimball St, Chicago IL 60625

(27) Jan 6 Rockford Auburn Fr/So Knight's Challenge
Linda Greene (815-966-3300 x832)
5110 Auburn St, Rockford IL 61101

(27) Jan 6 Kaneland Varsity Tournament
Ken Dentino (630-365-5100 x218)
<kdentino@kaneland.org>
47W326 Keslinger Rd, Maple Park IL 60151

(28) Jan 13 Sterling Varsity Tournament
Cheryl Christianson (815-625-6800)
<cchristi@essex1.com>
1608 4th Ave, Sterling IL 61081

(28) Jan 13 IHSSBCA Turnabout Tournaments
@ Evergreen Pk, Richmond-Burton, and Effingham
Invitations were sent to all eligible teams.

- (28) Jan 13 IHSSBCA Beta Tournaments @ Lincoln-Way and PORTA
Invitations were sent to all IHSSBCA members.
- (28) Jan 13 Lake Zurich Frosh/Soph Tournament
Robert Brown (847-438-5155)
<rbrown@lz95.lake.k12.il.us>
300 N Church St, Lake Zurich IL 60047
- (28) Jan 13 St. Bede Frosh/Soph Tournament (closed)
- (29) Jan 20 6th Annual Fremd Varsity Tournament
Kevin Palmer (847-755-2600)
<kcp1963@yahoo.com>
1000 S Quentin Rd, Palatine IL 60067
- (29) Jan 20 IHSSBCA Turnabout Tournaments @ Moline and Springfield Southeast
Invitations were sent to all eligible teams.
- (29) Jan 20 IHSSBCA Beta Tournament @ Flora
Invitations were sent to all IHSSBCA members.
- (29) Jan 20 Macomb HS Rotary Tournament
Suellyn Rieckelman (309-837-2331)
<suellyn.riekelman@schools.macomb.com>
1525 S Johnson Rd, Macomb IL 61455
- (29) Jan 20 10th Annual Winnebago Invitational**
Karen Niemeier (815-335-2336)
200 E McNair Rd, Winnebago IL 61088
- (29) Jan 20 John A Logan Tournament
Contact information unavailable.
- (30) Jan 27 SAT Date
- (30) Jan 27 Wheaton N Frosh/Soph Falcon Classic
Phyllis Kidd (708-682-2253)
<pkiddup@avenew.com>
701 W Thomas Rd, Wheaton IL 60187
- (30) Jan 27 Rockford Boylan Varsity Tournament
JoAnne Meyer (815-877-2513)
<jameyerscience@att.net>
4000 St Francis Dr, Rockford IL 61103
- (30) Jan 27 Galesburg Varsity Rotary Invitational
Steve Eisemann (309-343-4146)
1135 W Fremont St, Galesburg IL 61401
- (30) Jan 27 Lincoln Varsity Tournament Canceled.**
- (31) Feb 3 Varsity Rotary Classic at Streator Township
Jane Hart (815-672-0545)
600 N Jefferson, Streator IL 61364
- (31) Feb 3 6th Annual Loyola Rambler Frosh/Soph Classic
David Riley (847-920-2546) <driley@loy.org>
1100 N Laramie Ave, Wilmette IL 60091
- (31) Feb 3 EIU Honors Program Tournament
Contact information unavailable.
- (32) Feb 7 Seeding Meetings
- (32) Feb 10 ACT Date
- (32) Feb 10 Ultimate Scholar Tournament 2001
at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington
Ken Johnson (217-728-8311)
<schnook_61951@yahoo.com>
Sullivan HS, 725 N Main, Sullivan IL 61951
- (32) Feb 10 Sterling Frosh/Soph Tournament
See contact information for January 13th.
- (32) Feb 11 Team Illinois 2001 Selection Event
at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington
- (33) Feb 17 Decatur MacArthur Winter Classic
Tom Durbin (217-424-3156)
<eldo831@aol.com>
1155 N Fairview, Decatur IL 62522
- (33) Feb 17 Lake Zurich Varsity Tournament
See contact information for January 13th.
- (33) Feb 17 Orion Frosh/Soph Tournament
Shelly Hutton (309-526-3361)
1100 13th St, Orion IL 61273
- (33) Feb 17 Lincoln Trail Tournament (?)
Date not confirmed.
Contact information unavailable.
- (33) Feb 17 Speech Individual Events State Final
- (34) Feb 24 Masonic Regional Tournaments
- (34) Feb 24 ICTM Math Contest Regionals
- (35) **Mar 2 18th Annual Masonic State Tournament**
- (35) Mar 3 Music Solo & Ensemble State Contest
- (36) Mar 5 IHSA Regional Tournaments
- (36) Mar 10 IHSA Sectional Tournaments
- (36) Mar 10 Speech Debate State Final
- (37) Mar 17 IHSA State Tournaments in Peoria
“Nationals” (*Illinois Scholastic Bowl Teams Not Eligible*)
- May 25-29 ASCN QBToC (Lake Forest, IL)
- May 31-Jun 3 NAA NAC Phase 1 (Loyola U, New Orleans, LA)
- Jun 7-10 NAA NAC Phase 2 (Marymount U, Wash, DC)
- Jun 8 NAQT HSNCT (U Michigan, Ann Arbor)**
- Jun 14-17 NAA NAC Phase 3 (**Pepperdine U**, Malibu, CA)
- Jun 15-17 PACE NSC (Bowling Green State University, OH)
- Jun 23-26 Panasonic Academic Challenge (WDW Orlando)
- Send tournament results to the Editor at <grierson@mcs.net>.*
- If your tournament isn't listed, or if the information listed is wrong, contact David Riley (847-920-2546) <driley@loy.org>.

IHSSBCA Seeks Role At Fall 2001 League Meetings

For the past three years, the IHSSBCA has sponsored District Meetings for Scholastic Bowl coaches. Attendance has been poor.

Next year, instead of District Meetings, the IHSSBCA would like to “piggyback” on League Meetings around the state. We are asking that an IHSSBCA member be given a slot on the agenda for announcements and dissemination of information.

Please contact Rob Grierson <grierson@mcs.net> if you would like to serve as the IHSSBCA liaison to your League. We will provide you with necessary information prior to your meeting.

Question Writing Tips: Some “Hidden” Agendas

by David Riley, Loyola Academy, Wilmette

At some point, many of us have written our own questions for tournaments. We all know what makes a good question set – balanced distribution of subjects, accurate answers, and so on – and we recognize bad question sets as well.

But having written questions for about thirty tournaments over the last five years, I’ve discovered that it is very easy for hidden agendas to slip in, often subconsciously. Thus, in no particular order, I present a checklist of caveats to keep in mind when writing your own questions – the coaches, the teams, and the moderators will all thank you.

- First, it often helps to outline what **sub**categories you will use within each major subject area. Using “history” as an example: If you are writing questions for a tournament set, don’t put a question about the Civil War in every match, to the exclusion of all other aspects of history – unless you announce ahead of time that the Civil War will be a special category for the tournament. I recently wrote a set of questions where almost all the history questions had to do with the eighteenth century. If I had prepared, and paid more attention to, an outline, this wouldn’t have happened.

- If you are writing questions for your *own* host tournament, take care that your “pet areas” don’t sneak in. Over time, your team will recognize this and will study World War II airplanes, women in literature, or whatever, giving them a slight advantage. While other teams who regularly attend your tournaments may pick up on this as well, it’s not a bad idea to keep this practice in check.

- Strike a balance between “types” of questions. While Scholastic Bowl and similar questions tend toward quick recall questions, add some other types: pyramid-style, analogies, and so on. Include bonus types other than straight pattern (e.g. What are the first five books of the Bible?).

- Do some research to ensure that all possible alternative answers are given. My favorite example here is a question that appears in a lot of tournament sets, usually as a bonus part: “Which of Henry VIII’s wives outlived him?” The expected answer is Catherine Parr; however, Anne of Cleves also outlived him (although they had divorced). If you don’t include this, and the moderator has no knowledge of Tudor English history, a student who answers “Anne of Cleves” is penalized for giving a correct answer.

- Avoid questions that are misleading: “This author ...” and then asking for the title of the book. Questions that test whether the teams are listening, however, are perfectly legal!

- The jury is out on pop culture questions. Many coaches do not mind them, but there are a number of coaches who don’t care for them. There is merit to both sides of the argument, but one thing is certain: *Never ... ever!* ... write a pop culture question – or any see-who’s-fastest-on-the-buzzer question – as the *last question in the final match of a tournament!* I’ve seen many matches that have been head-to-head at the penultimate question, only to have a team win because they knew who had the most RBI’s in 1996 or the three actors who played Mr. Freeze in the *Batman* TV series.

- The jury is also out on foreign language questions. Contrary to popular belief, don’t assume that everyone studies Spanish. Several times I have encountered a foreign language question in a set of questions, only to find at tournament time that only one person on one of the teams, or no one on either of the teams, studies that language.

- Finally, a note for coaches who look for people other than commercial vendors as sources of questions, or who ask that questions be customized: If you have particular concerns, then let them know! I was once turned down as a question writer for a series of tournaments and assumed, “Hey, it’s just business, they liked someone else”. I later found out that the reason for not getting the bid was that my art and music questions were too difficult. The complaint was legit, as art and music are not part of the curricula for this particular consortium of schools. But how could I know this ahead of time? If your school doesn’t offer advanced physics, let them know! If you don’t want to see any questions about Frost’s “The Road Not Taken,” let them know!

Paying attention to these details can mean the difference between a good question set and a great question set.

David is an Assistant Librarian at Loyola Academy. He is currently in his eighth year as Head Coach with a career record of 541-167. The Ramblers made it to the Sweet Sixteen in 1986. His “pet areas” include Music and European history .

Team Illinois Selection Event Set for February 11th, 2001

By the time pre-nominations for Team Illinois close on January 10th, we hope to have at least a dozen outstanding Scholastic Bowl players in the running for Team Illinois, with an additional dozen nominated for All-State.

Coaches and moderators all over the state have begun to observe the nominees and to report back to the IHSSBCA. We hope to put together another great team this year.

The next phase of the selection process will begin in January. Coaches of the nominees will be sent packets that will include a more formal nomination form, sample rules and questions from the Florida/Panasonic format, and details about the IHSSBCA Team Illinois Selection Event.

The Selection Event will be held on Sunday, February 11th, at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington. Coaches and their nominees will be able to drive in for the 1:00 pm event, or, if they are also attending the Ultimate Scholar event on Saturday February 10th, spend the night at the hotel. Participation in Ultimate Scholar is encouraged.

The Selection Event will involve simulated competition with Florida/Panasonic style questions and rules, which are somewhat different from Illinois questions and rules. Attendees will be observed for individual and group skills, and the Team will be chosen by a Selection Committee after the event.

Have you nominated your star player yet? Download the form from the IHSSBCA Web site and do it today!

Mind Games

by Linda Monge, Fairfield Community HS

Do you have a “nose for the news?” Can you find your way around on the world map? Do you have quick recall of songs when you hear them? Do you enjoy stretching your brain with teasers? Are you a jigsaw puzzle fanatic? Are you good with faces – it’s just the names you forget? Do you know how to use a scientific calculator? Have you always dreamed of being on Jeopardy? If your answer to any of these questions was Yes, then read on!

Qualifying for a national tournament is a goal each year for our varsity Scholastic Bowl team. However, with the excitement of qualifying for a tournament always comes the job of once again raising the money to attend. We have been very fortunate in the past few years in that our community has supported our efforts. For the past three years we have sponsored a Community Knowledge Bowl to raise money for our expenses. Letters were sent to over fifty civic organizations, area schools, and former Scholastic Bowl team members. We have had at least fifteen actual teams each year as participants in our community bowl, with enough “ghost” teams (which donate the \$50 fee but don’t actually compete) to generate funds for our expenses for a national tournament.

Although we had hosted a very successful Community Knowledge Bowl for the past three years, the students were ready for a change. Instead of the traditional, more serious approach to the competition, we wanted to have a more relaxed, fun event. So, the idea for the first annual Community Mind Games was born. Most of the Scholastic Bowl team members also compete in Learning Olympiads during the school year. The new tournament would be modeled after those activities. Teams would compete against each other in a variety of events. The competition was a series of eight different “mind games” with each team playing each of the games and answering the same questions as every other team.

To begin the Community Mind Games all teams assembled in the learning center for instructions and a time schedule. At this time a code name was also given to each team. No team knew the other teams’ code names. In this way, a running total for all the teams could be kept during the morning, but no team would know exactly what teams were either ahead or behind them in points. Points were added to a team’s score at the end of each event. After all the teams had participated in each event, the final point totals for the morning’s events would determine the winner.

The maximum number of players on a team was five, but a team could compete with fewer than five players. Teams were able to confer on all answers in each game, with the exception of Jeopardy. The different games were set up in individual classrooms, and all materials for each game were provided for the team members.

The Mind Games included:

- **Name that Tune** – Two teams were in the room at the same time. Each team was given an answer sheet. As excerpts of songs were played on a tape player, a series of questions was asked concerning the tunes being played. Questions such as, “What is the name of this tune from a 1939 movie?” (“Tara’s Theme”); “What is the name of the movie?” (*Gone with the Wind*); “A country legend sings the next song. Name the singer.” (Johnny Cash);

“Now, name the song.” (“Daddy Sang Bass”). The musical selections were from many decades of song. This event was not a race, and both teams in the room had the same opportunity to answer all the questions.

- **Famous Faces** – Two teams were in the room at the same time. Each team was given an answer sheet. Pictures of famous people, past and present, were then displayed to both teams. The people were government officials, entertainers, sports figures, famous models, and so on. Clues were given for each picture, such as, “She played Miss Hannigan in the movie *Annie*,” or “He played the bumbling TV detective, Columbo.” Teams were to name the people in each photo using the clues given.

- **Quick Hands** – Each team in the room was given a calculator. On an overhead projector, problems were displayed that would require the use of a calculator. Each question was a timed event. Teams had an answer sheet to write all their answers. The problems included questions ranging from interest calculation, age problems, to area and volume.

- **Nose for the News** – In this room each team was given an answer sheet. Each team then had to answer thirty questions concerning current events. Audio and visual clues added variety.

- **Brainteasers** – Fifteen problems were put on fifteen different tables. Each team was given an answer sheet. Most of the brainteasers were from the game, Mind Trap. Teams had fifteen minutes to circulate and answer as many questions as possible.

- **Puzzles** – In this activity a jigsaw puzzle was apart, and the pieces were scattered on a table. Each team was given ten minutes to put as many pieces of the puzzle together as possible. A point was awarded for each piece correctly placed.

- **Where is it?** – This event was geography based. Again, an answer sheet was given to each team. Then a series of questions was asked. Topics included world capitals, flags of the world, mountains, and rivers. Maps and visuals were used in this event.

- **Jeopardy** – This event was based on the TV show. Teams acquired the point total they had at the end of Double Jeopardy. Then they could wager on the Final Jeopardy question. This was a very popular game.

To add to the excitement of the morning events, a running total of team points was kept on a large chalkboard in the hall between rooms. Teams were listed by the code names they were given. Also, two ghost teams were entered with fictitious scores recorded each time. In this way, no team really knew who was actually winning, so every event’s points were important. The code names we used were television family surnames: the Simpsons, the Cleavers, the Flintstones, the Cosbys, the Tanners and others.

After all the teams had been to every room, they assembled together for the announcement of the winning teams. Trophies were awarded to the first and second place teams, and coupons for pizza and drinks for the winning teams were also awarded.

Comparing the new format for the community bowl to the previous format, I would say that the teams seemed to enjoy the Mind Games more. Unlike a Scholastic Bowl format, where individuals are “put on the spot” to get a toss-up correct, in the Mind

Games format, the entire team worked together in each event, except for Jeopardy. This seemed to build not only team camaraderie but also a competitive spirit among all the teams.

We are hopeful that we will *need* to host the second annual Mind Games in the spring of 2001. With the students' help and with the community's continued support we should be able to finance another trip to a national tournament!

"Where did you say the Atlas Mountains were?" "Who sings *Cheeseburger in Paradise*?" You say you can't remember? – Oh well, it's just a mind game!

Linda is in her 25th year of teaching math at Fairfield HS, and her 11th year of coaching Scholastic Bowl. She is also the Student Council sponsor. Linda is married with three children: Maria, Whitney, and Joey (Fairfield HS Junior). Her teams have won Sectionals and advanced to the State Tournament in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, and 1997.

IHSSBCA Meeting Minutes

from Libby Letterly, IHSSBCA Secretary

The Executive Committee of the IHSSBCA met at Jumer's Restaurant in Peoria on Sunday, November 5, 2000. Dave Riley welcomed those present.

Present: David Riley, Rob Grierson, Debbie Martin, Tom Egan, Cathy Groesch, David Reinstein, Robert Brown, Mark Cohen, Libby Letterly, John Rathbun, and David Bibb.

Absent: Sr. John Baricevic, Nick Pitz, Cheryl Christianson, Linda Monge, Mickey Towns, Jane Snyder, Kevin Palmer, Robert Schrempf, and Mike Hendricks.

There were no corrections to the August 11 minutes.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership:** Rob Grierson passed out a master copy of the Executive Committee asking that any changes be noted. He reported that as of November 5 there were 219 members, nearly 90 more than last year at the same time; the separate membership letter seemed to have triggered a faster response. There was a second mailing to non-members on November 2, also. Rob asked that regional representatives make personal contact by telephone with non-members in their area to ascertain current information. A list was given to each representative. The goal is 300 members.

- **Treasurer's Report:** Rob handed out the treasurer's report, noting the additional revenue from the fall membership drive. Our tax-exempt status is provisional for three years; approval will follow.

- **Newsletter:** Rob asked for ideas for the February 2001 issue and several ideas were proposed. These included an ongoing "Faces In the Crowd" column recognizing players and coaches and a humorous "blunders" section.

About 10-15 members have requested having the newsletter delivered only by electronic format. Snail-mailing will continue this year, and in February discussion will begin on offering a two-tiered membership fee based on this selection.

- **Web site:** Rob Brown handed out several weekly reports and graphs indicating an ongoing and increasing interest in the Web site. Coaches and students are checking the Web site for tournament information. Rob even reported one membership inquiry from a coach perusing the site. Feedback has been very positive, including delivery of the newsletter via an e-mailed Web link.

Grierson brought up archiving newsletters on the site. It was proposed that issues more than one year old be available on the Web site; this may prompt additional interest in the organization.

- **Case Manual:** Tom Egan said that Anthony Holman was pleased with the case manual. Egan asked for feedback and recommendations or concerns via e-mail.

- **Fundraising:** Tom Egan handed out a list of Illinois-based corporations that are possible corporate sponsors. It is recommended that the committee draw up guidelines for sponsorship. Mark Cohen mentioned that Wal-Mart frequently provides physical support, such as calculators, pencils, etc., and offered to contact them.

- **Masonic:** Cathy Groesch is this year's host for State. The question source has not yet been decided. Several committee members asked that the format of the regional Masonic competition be changed from double elimination, ending long periods of downtime when other teams don't show. The problem is that this adds greater expense to the tournament.

Updates:

- **District Meetings:** Dave Riley and Rob Grierson wondered if there is a need to revamp the format. Several districts had few or no coaches show up for their meeting. Would it be possible to tie a workshop for coaches to the Team Illinois selection event weekend and target it for new coaches? Others in the group wondered about tying the format of the district meeting to league meetings with IHSSBCA representation present. Grierson reported that the leagues listed in front of the IHSA handbook are almost identical to those of Scholastic Bowl. Another proposal included matching and mentoring new coaches. Egan will pass on these recommendations to Anthony Holman, along with the idea of having IHSA sponsor or sanction an annual statewide meeting.

- **Handbooks:** There seems to be ongoing confusion with updates to the handbooks. It was suggested that the full handbook only be offered, replaced on a two to three-year cycle with membership lists, tournament dates and other dynamic information sent out with membership renewals. Terms and conditions are already available on the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Web site. John Rathbun and Tom Egan suggested, too, that the handbook be made available in a more permanent form such as a binder.

Tom also mentioned that an official scorebook should be offered. Both suggestions were tabled until the February meeting.

- **Beta Tournaments:** The question sets possibly will be purchased from Chip Beall, depending on the negotiated price. Eight rounds will probably be the most needed in any of the tournament sites.

- **Kickoff Tournaments:** Many schools have responded. Currently, the regions have the following numbers signed up: Dave Riley, 22 teams; Deb Martin, 31 teams; Linda Monge, 8 teams; Cheryl Christianson, 34 teams.

- Turnabout Tournaments: Vera will write the science questions; everything is falling into place.

Other Business:

- Representation on IHSA Advisory Board: Six members from the executive committee also serve on the IHSA Advisory Board. Anthony Holman has mentioned several times that he sees no reason for the IHSA Board to have representation from every region.
- State Tournament Awards: Tom Egan will formally ask Anthony Holman about presentation of additional awards, including recognition of an All-State team, Friend of Scholastic Bowl award, and both Class A and AA state series team Sportsmanship awards.
- Scholastic Bowl Week: A mailing of ideas to promote this event the first week of March will be sent out again this year.
- Team Illinois: Discussion centered on taking observers in addition to the team members. The annual meeting open to all coaches will again be held the weekend of the selection process. Only a few nominations for this national team have been sent in so far.
- Executive Committee Nominations: Discussion has begun.
- Season Limitation Rule: Discussion revolved around adding exclusions to this rule. David asked if anyone thought their Principal would be willing to propose and support an amendment to this rule, allowing the exclusion of the Masonic Bowl, television appearances, and national competition.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Letterly, Secretary

**Annual Meeting
of the
IHSSBCA Membership**
.....
**Sunday, February 11, 2001
10:00 am
at the Radisson Hotel
in Bloomington**

The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the IHSSBCA's Team Illinois Selection Event, at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington.

All IHSSBCA members are invited to attend. The agenda will include the election of a Treasurer and Ombudsman for two-year terms, as well as discussion of various issues that have been raised in the past year.

Contact David Riley by e-mail <driley@loy.org> or phone (847-920-2546) if you are planning to attend.

On a Personal Note ...

- Coaching Changes: **Leland Saunders** replaces **Christi Hartman** at Wheaton Academy, while **Susan Rhodes** is back this year as his assistant; **Brian Kay** replaces the retired **Marshall Ellenstein** at Maine West HS in Des Plaines; **Martha Lietz** replaces the retired **Faith Shapiro** at Niles West HS in Skokie; **Rachel Blumenstock** is the new coach at Danville HS; **Laurie Vaughn**, former coach at Palestine HS, replaces **Dale Boyd** at Robinson HS; **Dale Boyd** replaces **Brent Duggins** at Glenwood HS in Chatham; and **Kelly Orsi** replaces **Karissa Brooks** as assistant coach at Prairie Ridge HS in Crystal Lake. Other coaching changes include:

<u>City/School</u>	<u>New Coach</u>	<u>Former Coach</u>
Avon	Lisa Pumfrey	Rachel Kerr
Bluffs	Jan Barnett	Laura Burrus
Buffalo Tri-City	Patty Lorton	Russell Burch
Burbank St. Laurence	Charlotte Sukta	Susan Henning
Chicago St. Patrick	Jay McMahon	Dalston Shand
Deland-Weldon	Sara Schilawski	Bonny Cooper
DePue	Sue Garvin	Larry McKee
East Peoria	Heidi McKeever	Lin Westler
Elmwood Park	Michele Hall	Rebecca Baudler
Flanagan	Mary Jo Grau	Jerry Kack
Franklin	Ann Hart	Diana Bassi
Geneva	Paul Thill	Chris Friedrich
Girard	Lauren Baker	Althea Brummett
IMSA	Julia Darnton	Tim Johanns
Joliet Catholic	Bernard Schmit	Ann Marie Brooks
Lincoln	Missy Koning	Terry Wisniewski
Metropolis Massac	Julie Thompson	Marilyn Moore
Mt. Carmel	Mike Glover	Linda Pfeister
Mt. Zion	Carmen Allen	Rich Hansen
Nokomis	Amy Knodle	Barbara Klinefelter
Oregon	Connie Alden	Terry Sherer
Orion	Jens Rehder	Shelly Hutton
Ottawa Marquette	Shawn Trotter	Sharon Sweeney
Pleasant Plains	Rod Helle	Sarah Rankin
Port Byron Riverdale	Rita Luebbers	Shirley Traylor
Rock Falls	Skip Lee	Judy Thome
Rockford Guilford	Tom Lundgren	Bruce Keyzer
Scales Mound	Tim Drey	Ruth Foley
South Beloit	Rebecca Ramsey	Jennifer Boeyink
St. Charles East	John Connell	Dawn Anderson
Streator Woodland	Jason Artman	Derek Broadstone
Washington	Steve Doty	Pat Luthe
Wayne City	David Beck	Judy Beehn
White Hall N Greene	Becky Dimmick	Stephanie Hawk
Woodlawn	Kara Peterson	Mary Flesher

- New Teams: **Michelle Ratliff** is the coach of a new team at Greenview HS. **Brad Cox**, former coach at Riverton, is the Principal at Greenview. **Claudia Estep** is the coach of a new team at the new Vernon Hills HS. **Tom Ramseyer** is the coach of a new team at Pontiac Township HS. **Linda Reichenbach** is the coach of a new team at Aurora Central Catholic HS.

Team Illinois: The Inside Story

by Debbie Martin, PORTA HS, Petersburg

Overwhelmed, proud, impressed, and baffled are just a few words I'd use to describe Team Illinois 2000. Perhaps the best part of coaching this team is getting to know the students on a different level than you get to know them when competing against them.

In February, potential Team Illinois members took a brave step and traveled to Bloomington for an overnight stay at the Radisson. Coaches and players attended a reception. The students met one another and talked about common interests. They laughed and had a good time. The coaches, too, strengthened friendships and enjoyed the company of one another in a relaxed atmosphere.

I know that for the two members from my team the night was very long and sleepless. Facts just raced through these students' heads. The next morning, bright eyed and full of knowledge, and wondering who would have to take on Yogesh Raut of IMSA, 22 brave students stepped up to the challenge of the Team Illinois tryouts. Never in one place had I seen so much talent, as well as camaraderie. At the end of a long afternoon, and a long selection committee meeting, six students were named to Team Illinois. It was a very difficult decision because such wonderful talent was on hand. I know I was mentally exhausted when I returned home.

This begins the second part of the story. The members of Team Illinois were notified. It was now time to organize, strategize and meet the coaches at the family luncheon. Oh boy, if the kids thought Rob Grierson was a tough moderator, I can only wonder what their thoughts of him as a coach would be. Some of the kids knew me but as the coach of the "other" team. At this first practice, we discussed the many aspects of taking a national trip like this. Rob played the authoritative role, while I took the approach of "mom." Rob stressed the importance of not losing the plane tickets, while I expressed the need for the kids to hand the tickets to their mothers at that moment. We then enjoyed a nice potluck lunch that was hosted by the Moores and then began hitting the Florida format questions. This would be the last time we would practice together as a full group until just before our trip in June.

Coach Grierson hosted practices for the "northern" group – David Werner, Stephen Walker, and Bradley Houston – while the Rauts opened their home to us "southern" folk – Yogesh Raut, Stephen Moore, Gary Leuty, and me. These boys were coming off the state finals and were ready to take team Maryland, five-time national champions, in Florida. They were required to write questions in the Florida format, as well as to study certain materials. Practices went well throughout the spring and early summer.

The day finally arrived that we all loaded up and headed to our appropriate airport. The northerners flew from Chicago while we southerners flew from St. Louis on a very adventurous ride – I am quickly gaining the reputation of being a bad penny when it comes to flights. We entertained the Moore family on the ride to St. Louis and would like to again thank them for car pooling us all to the airport. The players said their good-byes to moms and dads, boarded the plane ... pulled out questions to study ... and sat ... and sat ... and sat. The airplane would start up ... and then the motor would die. We were by no means airplane mechanics but we knew something was wrong.

The moment I had dreaded arrived ... I had to call Coach Grierson and for the third year in a row tell him that again the "southern contingent" would be late. We deplaned, and, after waiting hours in the terminal, were finally allowed to board another plane. We waited another couple of hours to get on the runway and – you guessed it – we waited hours to take off because we were number 22 in line. Due to all the confusion and transferring of planes the airline forgot to transfer the food to our new plane! I was stuck with three teenage boys who were deprived of food ... *this is not a pretty sight*. Thankfully Team Illinois (actually, Stephen Moore of MacArthur HS) soon had everyone on the airplane laughing. All the while I was hoping the attendants would not get upset and throw us off the plane. We finally took off, had a good flight, and landed safely in Orlando. Sadly, the trip had taken 12 hours.

The team members knew they had ground to make up at this point, so practices were long and strenuous. They had scrimmages with Team Maryland; they made both coaches proud when they kept it close, and in one match, defeated Maryland. What a boost of confidence for Team Illinois! They took that boost and won their first round of competition, defeating teams from Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia, and Idaho. Because of the win, the team was able to skip the second day of preliminary matches and visit the theme parks. They experienced photo sessions and royal treatment by some of the PAC sponsors. Team Illinois is known for their sharply dressed look but has also earned a reputation for having outstanding sportsmanship – something we coaches are very proud of. In addition each parent, coach, and school should be proud of the students who have helped earn this reputation over the years.

The time for the semifinal match finally arrived. There we sat between Florida and Texas. Go figure – Illinois is surrounded by two states governed by brothers who had challenged all the Governors throughout the United States to send teams down and to beat their teams. Well, Illinois took them up on this challenge and did exactly that. We beat both Bush states and advanced to the finals.

Team Illinois had a couple of hours off before they had to compete in a very intimidating atmosphere. The placement of Team Illinois was directly behind our friends from Maryland. The players were in a huge room with lights in their faces and TV monitors in the middle of their tables and hundreds of people staring at them. They had a multitude of judges on one side of the room and the alternate players and coaches on the other side of the room – not to mention TV cameras in their faces and the Lieutenant Governor of Florida showing up to give a speech in the middle of the championship round. Team Illinois fought hard and pulled out fourth place to claim the highest finish ever for Illinois.

The team enjoyed an elegant awards banquet and received a crystal trophy that is on display, along with a photograph of the team, at the Governor's office in Springfield. Each team member was presented with a certificate.

Each member of Team Illinois 2000 has plans to attend college after graduation, and to continue their quiz bowl careers in one form or another.

So now, meet Team Illinois:

Brad Houston – our only graduate – is at Grinnell College, and plans to start a Quiz Bowl team there; we could not have made it

to the finals without Brad. Stephen Walker never ceased to fascinate us with his worldly knowledge and Chinese phrases; there should a place for him in the Guinness World Record book under "most unusual sitting positions." Yogesh Raut, Gary Leuty, and David Werner proved that pizza always brings a team together – to spend most of the night awake being entertained by Stephen Moore's jokes. I can't remember a time in my life that I have laughed so much. Of course, the *real* reason all the boys kept stopping by my room was to see if my roommates (young ladies from Vermont and New Hampshire) were in. Finally, to all members of Team Illinois for one last time: (Clap, clap) *Circle time, boys!*

Debbie has been to Orlando three times with Team Illinois, twice as a coach. She is in her 7th year as a Computer Resource Teacher and Scholastic Bowl coach. Her team won Sectionals in 1992, and in 1999 finished as Runners-up in the State Tournament.

Coaches Poll

by Kevin Palmer, Fremd HS, Palatine

Here are the results of the **pre-season coaches poll**. Ten points were awarded for a #1 ranking, 9 for #2, and so on down to 1 point for #10. There were 7 polls, total, sent in.

Class A (small schools)	total pts	mentions	# of #1
1. U High (Normal)	18	1	1
2. Latin (Chicago)	17	1	1
3. St. Teresa (Decatur)	13	2	0
4. Byron	9	1	0
4. Robinson	9	1	0
6. Fairfield	7	1	0
7. Herrin	6	1	0
8. Dunlap	5	1	0
8. Stillman Valley	5	1	0
10. LaHarpe	4	1	0
10. Peru St. Bede	4	1	0

Class AA (large schools)	total pts	mentions	# of #1
1. IMSA (Aurora)	40	5	1
2. Stevenson (Lincolnshire)	33	4	2
3. Loyola (Wilmette)	29	4	1
4. New Trier (Winnetka)	28	4	1
5. Streator	27	4	0
6. Wheaton North	17	5	0
7. Lake Zurich	15	3	0
8. Niles West	12	3	0
9. Fremd (Palatine)	11	2	0
10. Marist (Chicago)	18	4	0

To join the panel, e-mail me <kcp1963@yahoo.com> or write me at Fremd HS, 1000 S Quentin, Palatine IL 60067; I'll contact you in late January and ask for your picks. Polls must list exactly ten teams in Class A or AA, or ten teams in each class, in rank order with the top pick as #1. Panel members are expected to attend tournaments and/or follow results on the IHSSBCA Web site.

Kevin teaches World History, American Studies, and A.P. United States History. He is in his 11th year of coaching, and has run a Frosh/Soph Tournament for eight years and a Varsity Tournament for five years. Fremd won Sectionals in 1994, and Regionals in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,


After reading about the season limitation rules in your last issue, I am worried that the involvement of governing bodies such as the IHSA, and their codification of rules, seems to actually deter the purpose of your program, to wit, getting coaches and students excited about math and science and academic pursuits in general.

I have seen many examples of bureaucracy at work and I haven't found many that help much. I am convinced that we will never join larger organizations for fear of actually hurting our teachers and students rather than helping them. Last year over 5,000 students participated in our programs; this year we expect over 6,000.


Just because the federal government can make a regulation governing national issues doesn't mean it should – there are local concerns that might be neglected. In the same way, the IHSA and the Principals group, while well intended, seem to have stymied a program that enhances academic excellence without consulting the coaches – those who know the most about the program, and who could have given them a wider perspective.

I hate to see a competition like yours prevented from going as far as it can go. The students who participate, as you well know, are not hurt by more competitions but are, in fact, helped by the diversity of the competition venue.

David Powell, Executive Director, WYSE
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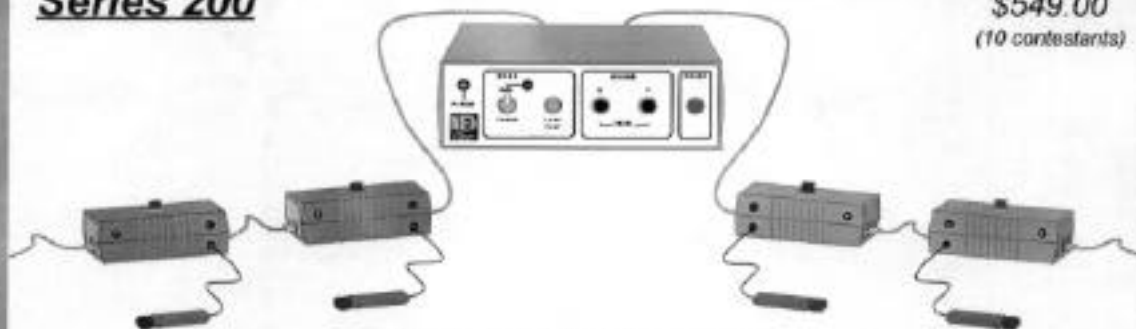
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The purpose of the IHSSBCA is to increase awareness and support of the public, school leaders, and parents for high school Scholastic Bowl competition in Illinois; to provide opportunities for Scholastic Bowl coaches to meet and cooperate in the development and communication of coaching techniques, tournament formats, and other ways of improving the quality of competition with integrity and the highest possible standards; and to promote recognition of participants, coaches, and programs.

Important Scholastic Bowl News!

***Please direct to Scholastic Bowl Coach
or Coordinator of Academic Programs***

**Next Issue: February ... Tournament Results ... Tournament Schedule
Reflections on Running a Tournament ... Bloopers and Blunders
Success on a Shoestring Budget ... Case Manual Highlights ... Practice Strategies
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